

ANDO *et al.*, SN 10/020,116  
Amdt. dated 05/09/2005  
Reply to OA mailed 02/09/2005

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An appliance located states accumulating method of accumulating data of a positional relation of positions where a plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network are located, comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

(a) receiving state information indicative of operating state changes of the appliances constituted of a distributed computer through said network;

(b) calculating an occurrence time difference from ~~the state changes occurred in the appliances~~ occurrence times when the state changes have been detected as having occurred by differing ones of the appliances. In accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the state changes included in the state information; and

(c) ~~calculating the positional relation of~~ acquiring a distance between the positions, where the appliances occur the state changes, from the calculated occurrence time difference.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step ~~(e)~~ acquiring calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in ~~the two appliances~~ and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances, ~~with both previously stored.~~

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3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements: number of times of occurring the state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus constituted of a plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network and for accumulating data of a positional relation of positions where the appliances are located, comprising:

a reception means for receiving state information indicating operating state changes of the appliances constituted of a distributed computer through said network;

calculation means calculating an occurrence time difference from ~~the state changes occurred in the appliances~~ occurrence times when the state changes have been detected as having occurred by differing ones of the appliances. In accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the state changes included in the state information; and

~~calculation means calculating the positional relation of acquiring means~~ acquiring a distance between the positions, where the appliances occur the state changes, from the calculated occurrence time difference.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said ~~calculation~~ acquiring means ~~calculates~~ acquires the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in ~~the~~ two

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appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances, ~~with both previously stored.~~

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 5, ~~further~~ comprising storing means for storing the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the distance between the two appliances.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements: number of times of occurring the state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances.